

**SUBJECT: 2-24 Food and Drink Policy for WLW Auditorium**

**ISSUED BY:** City Commission

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 9-1-08

**2-24 FOOD AND DRINK POLICY FOR THE WILLIAM L. WHITE AUDITORIUM**

**A. BACKGROUND**

The City of Emporia operates and maintains the William L. White Civic Auditorium (hereinafter referred to as WLW Auditorium) as a venue for NCAA volleyball, NCAA basketball, trade shows, graduation ceremonies, and many other events throughout the year. There are four concession areas; two on the upper level and two on the lower level of the WLW Auditorium. The concessions are operated under contract with the City and the sale of items results in revenue which, together with rental and advertising fees, goes to subsidize some of the costs of operation and maintenance of the facility. In 2008, the City plans to replace and update the scoreboard and related electronics and renovate the floor and walls with new paint resulting in improvements which will be of substantial benefit to the citizens of Emporia.

**B. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the WLW Auditorium Food and Beverage policy is to prohibit outside food and beverages from being brought into the auditorium during public events except in very limited circumstances. Adoption of the policy will enhance revenue from the concessions which will lessen the subsidy that the City provides, enhance security for the public and bring the auditorium into conformity with the policies of other venues in the region, all of which prohibit outside food and beverages.

**C. POLICY**

SECTION 1. Signage will be posted outside the entrance to the auditorium advising the public of the Policy:

- Outside Food and Beverages Are Prohibited at Public Events.
- The Prohibition Does Not Apply to Persons With Special Dietary Needs Due To A Bona Fide Medical Condition.
- The Prohibition Does Not Apply to Infants Or Toddlers Needing Formula or Baby Foods.

- Management Will Endeavor To Have A Variety of Snacks, Food Items and Soft Drinks Available for Purchase Inside the Auditorium. We Are Always Open to Suggestions For Additional Items.
- Bags, Back Packs, and Containers Entering the Auditorium Will Be Subject to Search. Refusal to Allow Containers to Be Searched Will Be Grounds For Refusal of Admission.

SECTION 2. The Lessee of the WLW Auditorium is responsible for enforcing the outside food and beverage ban at the point(s) of entry. Enforcement shall be accomplished by authorized security, ticket takers, or facilities staff personnel spot checking bags, back packs, and other containers.

SECTION 3. The Auditorium shall provide a container for disposal of prohibited items. Persons attempting to bring in outside food or beverages shall be advised in a courteous manner of their options to consume the item, take the item back to their vehicle or throw the item away.

SECTION 4. Refusal to voluntarily allow visual inspection of the inside of bags, back packs or other containers shall be grounds for refusal of admission to the civic auditorium.

SECTION 5. The City of Emporia reserves the right to approve concessions or catering anywhere within the civic auditorium. Sale and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited without the approval of the City, per City policy.

SECTION 6. The City has an exclusive pouring agreement with Coca Cola. To the extent possible, without violating any pre-existing contractual agreements of the City, all competing products and advertising shall be excluded from the public areas of the civic auditorium, and will not be permitted to sell competing products, or to advertise in the public areas of the civic auditorium. If soft drinks are being sold at any catered, private or invitation event, then Coca cola products shall be offered for sale on an equal basis.

SECTION 7. The City Manager reserves the right to modify or waive the prohibition on outside food and beverages as circumstances may warrant on a case by case basis.